

Amendments to the Drawing Figures:

The attached drawing sheet includes proposed changes to FIG. 1 and replaces the original sheet.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 2-13 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is canceled herein.

The applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

The Office action objects to the drawing; a replacement drawing is attached.

The Office action indicates that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims; claim 5 is correspondingly amended herein.

The Office action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Feierbach (USP 7,107,471). Claim 1 is canceled herein, and claims 2 and 3 are dependent upon claim 6.

The Office action rejects claims 2-4 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Bartley (USP 6,219,796). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 6 is rewritten in independent form, and each of claims 2-4 and 7-10 are dependent upon claim 6.

Bartley fails to teach an apparatus that includes a power saving circuit that switches a select subset of functional units and/or memory to a power saving state during program execution, wherein the power saving circuit is arranged to select the subset dependent on an instruction address associated with the instruction word, as specifically claimed in claim 6.

The Office action asserts that "Bartley inherently teaches the power saving circuit is arranged to select the subset dependent upon an instruction address associated with [the] instruction word", and references Bartley's column 6, lines 42-43 for this teaching:

"For example, within CPU 11, subsets of the control registers 11f could be selected for power modification when not used. Other components suitable for power modification are specialized execution units such as floating point units and FFT units (not shown). Also, portions of memory 12 or memory 13 could similarly [be] powered down." (Bartley, column 6, lines 41-47.)

As can be seen, the cited text does not address the instruction address associated with an instruction word, and in particular, does not address selecting a subset of units to place in a power saving state dependent upon this instruction address. The word "address" does not appear within Bartley.

Bartley specifically teaches the insertion of 'power-down' and 'power-up' instructions into the program sequence whenever a functional unit is inactive. By explicitly inserting each power-down instruction into the program sequence, the particular address of the instruction is immaterial. If, for example, Bartley's program is relocated into a different segment of memory, the power-down instruction will have a correspondingly different address. When the instruction is subsequently executed during program execution, the functional unit is placed in the sleep mode, regardless of the particular address of the instruction.

Because Bartley fails to teach an apparatus that includes a power saving circuit that switches a select subset of functional units and/or memory to a power saving state during program execution, wherein the power saving circuit is arranged to select the subset dependent on an instruction address associated with the instruction word, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 2-4 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Bartley.

In the interest of advancing prosecution in this case, the following remarks are submitted with regard to claims 11-13 and Bartley.

Claim 11, upon which claims 12 and 13 depend, claims an apparatus that includes at least one of the functional units that receives a power saving instruction and controls a power saving circuit to switch at least one other functional unit to the power saving state based on the power saving instruction.

Bartley does not teach or suggest having one functional unit control power to another functional unit. Bartley specifically teaches controlling each functional unit directly by sending a power-down (SLEEP) instruction to the particular unit:

"The processor's instruction set (FIG. 4) has instructions that may be directed to a particular functional unit (11d, 11e) so as to place that functional unit in a power-down state while not being used during a program segment."
(Bartley's Abstract.)

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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